

Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP)

High School Test Results

Graduating Class of 2003

Statewide

The number of students in the graduating class of 2003 who took all four MEAP high school tests (reading, writing, mathematics, and science) increased from 95,531 to 101,282 over last year. This is an increase of nearly 6,000 students (7 percent).

Students typically take the MEAP high school tests for the first time in the spring of their junior year. The tests have been developed to measure what students should know and be able to do by the end of the tenth grade. In the spring of 2003, reading and writing were reintroduced as part of the English language arts test using a new testing format. All tests are currently aligned with the *Michigan Curriculum Framework*.

The tests continue to be the primary means to qualify for the Michigan Merit Award. Students have at least two opportunities to retest in the fall and again in the spring of their senior year.

MEAP assessments are reported using four levels of performance;

- Level 1 – Endorsed Exceeding Michigan Standards
- Level 2 – Endorsed Met Michigan Standards
- Level 3 – Endorsed At Basic Level
- Level 4 – Not Endorsed

Public Schools

The following summaries are for the public school graduating class of 2003 and reflect the highest scores a student has attained. Some students may have taken the test three times, others only once. In addition to Merit Award qualification, the high school tests are used for transcript endorsements and serve as one component of the school and district AYP calculation for federal NCLB legislation and state accreditation.

- ♦ In the class of 2003, 68,198 students taking the reading test "Exceeded" or "Met" Michigan standards compared to 68,688 students in the class of 2002. The percentage of students "Met" or "Exceeded" levels decreased slightly from 71.3 in 2002 to 67 percent. Reading comprehension is first measured by a series of multiple-choice question that pertain to two different reading selections. Students then integrate information from these selections by responding to cross-text questions and are given a short real-life scenario related to the reading selections. In this final written response, students demonstrate their understanding of what

they have read and apply that understanding to a question about the scenario. Students must use relevant and correct information from the reading selections to support their position.

- ♦ The writing test asks students to reflect and report on a piece of writing from a high school student (in response to a specific question), and requires students to write an extended response to a given topic. Of this year's graduating class, 60,066 students "Exceeded" or "Met" Michigan standards. The percentage of students receiving a level 1 or 2 score is 61, compared with 68.2 percent for the previous year.
- ♦ The mathematics test requires students to apply mathematical concepts in the areas of numbers, geometry, statistics and probability, and measurement. For 2003, 61,591 students or sixty percent of the 2003 graduating class "Met" or "Exceeded" Michigan standards. In 2002, 65,008 students or sixty-seven percent "Met" or "Exceeded" Michigan standards.
- ♦ The science test requires students to measure scientific literacy using earth, life and physical science, as well as the ability to construct scientific knowledge and use this knowledge in real-world contexts. Of the students in the class of 2003 taking the science test, 62,419 students "Exceeded" or "Met" Michigan standards, compared to 56,822 last year, an increase of over 5,597 students. The percentage of students receiving a level 1 or 2 was 61 compared with 59.2 percent last year.
- ♦ The social studies test continues to be the most challenging test for students. Of the class of 2003 students taking the social studies test, 25,094 students, or 26 percent "Exceeded" or "Met" Michigan standards. This percentage is up slightly from the class of 2002 when 24 percent of public school students "Exceeded" or "Met" Michigan standards. The social studies test has been designed to measure a student's knowledge of history, geography, economics, and civics. There is also an inquiry and decision-making component that requires a student to take a stand on a public issue presented and to support that stand or viewpoint using prior knowledge and data presented in the question, apply a core democratic value that supports the position taken, and refute an argument that would support an opponent's position on the issue.
- ♦ For information regarding test results that are specific to the Spring 2003 test cycle, please refer to the MEAP Web site www.meritaward.state.mi.us.